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GENERAL

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1. Nationalists concerned over US Taiwan plans--US Embassy Taipei reports that the Chinese Nationalist Foreign Minister and other high officials are concerned over US aims regarding Taiwan. According to the Embassy, the Chinese--both Nationalist and Communist--are evidently convinced that the US has already formulated a long-range plan for Taiwan, perhaps in conjunction with the UK. As a result, the current US attitude on the Taiwan issue is regarded by the Nationalists as "something less than frank." In summarizing his government's attitude, the Nationalist Foreign Minister informed the Embassy that he would very much like to go along with the US in UN negotiations, but that he must "first know where the US is going."

EUROPE

25X1

2. UNITED KINGDOM: Analysis of political trends--US Embassy London, in an analysis of recent political developments, expresses doubt that "the Government will decide to hold an election this fall" and believes that at the Labor Party conference beginning 2 October the party, under Attlee's firm hand, will present a united front. The Embassy further believes that unless the international situation deteriorates, intense warfare between the Labor and Conservative parties will continue unabated, although neither side will inject major foreign policy or defense issues into the picture and the basic unity of the British on fundamental international issues will not be disturbed.

- 1 -

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T O P S E C R E T

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FAR EAST

3. KOREA: Report on conditions in Seoul--US Ambassador Muccio reports his return to Seoul and indicates that virtually all members of the Korean Cabinet headed by President Rhee are in the city and plan to remain. Muccio says that loss of life and property damage in Seoul and the surrounding area are "terrible and beyond description." Seoul is without water, electricity, and means of communication; food is short and the health hazard is great. He comments that the population is "in dire straits as a result of the harsh experiences of the past three months but is remarkably cheerful in the face of tremendous losses." He concludes that the rehabilitation work has already begun and that steps are being taken to bury the dead, demolish the roadblocks, and clear the streets.

- 2 -